**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEETING OF SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT**

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM)**, M Barlow (MB), R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL), M Pomeroy (MP), K Ridout (KR), I Suter (IS), Footpaths Officer G Rains, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 4 members of the public present.

**1204. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr While, Unitary Cllr Murcer

**1205. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1206. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 9th January 2025 were approved.

**1207. MATTERS ARISING**

**Pavement Sweeping** – Sturminster Newton Town Council have not expressed any interest in resuming the contract, and have referred the question to the Dorset Waste Partnership. Lesley Gasson agreed to follow up this enquiry. It was noted that the maintenance of pavements is legally the responsibility of Dorset Council.

**Fence/gate at Church Field** – a letter has been sent to the executors of the landowner’s estate requesting removal, although it is to be noted that the gate has already been removed.

**North Dorset Railway** (NDR)– Nigel Eveleigh, project manager, has enquired if the Parish Council would appoint a Councillor contact. Cllr Suter offered to speak to the NDR.

**1208. PUBLIC SESSION**

Lesley Gasson (LG) referred to a number of issues:

**Bee-keeping resource centre, Holloway Farm - t**he National Lottery has agreed to grant £30k to assist with the creation of the new training centre at Holloway Farm. This is though contingent on there being no break contract in the lease. However, the agreed lease includes two break clauses. LG requested that the Parish Council writes to Dorset Council requesting the removal of these clauses. This will be considered.

**Land at the Old Ox Planning application** – the failure of Dorset Council to make a decision taking into account the extent of local objections has been raised with Cllr Murcer.

**Flower Festival & VE 80 commemoration** – the Flower Festival & Open Garden event is planned for 21st/22nd June. The Chairman noted that the original VE 80th commemoration was intended to be an event which would enable the involvement the Young People of the village, in a way in which the Flower Festival could not. It was agreed that holding an event for the ‘Victory in Japan’ 80th commemoration in August would be a more suitable time from a weather perspective. This will be considered further.

**Churchyard Clearance** – there will be a clearance of china, glass, flowers and other items left in the Churchyard on 1st February.

**1209. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT** – None

**1210. FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT**

Grahams Rains updated the Council concerning several issues:

* FP33 – Lanchards Lane bridge – awaiting DC contractor repairs
* Resurfacing of the Trailway at Gains Cross – awaiting DC work
* Memorial seat at Gains Cross – repaired but awaiting DC installation
* Trailway bird hide – some vegetation has been cleared

The Chairman noted several other issues requiring resolution:

* Bench near bird hide – appears to be rotten
* Missing sign post on Lanchards Lane footpath junction
* Shillingstone House footpath – gate is partially obstructed & difficult with dogs

Graham Rains will look further at these issues.

**1211. YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT**

RM has contacted several local schools and is waiting for further information in relation to their own initiatives.

MB has attempted to contact Dorset Council without success, and will try again.

**1212. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Roads/Drains** – Cllr Pomeroy, together with Head Ranger Graham Stanley and several volunteers worked on clearing the Trailway culverts adjacent to the Recreation Ground on 18th January. The Council thanked all involved in this project which has resulted in a reduction in flooding at the Recreation Ground, although further work to clear ditches is required. Cllr Pomeroy is continuing to investigate the adequacy of pipework in culverts around Honeysuckle Gardens and the Recreation Ground with Environment Agency and residents. A camera inspection of the drains outside the Portman Hall has produced some interesting results of potential blockages which Dorset Council will be discussing with Wessex Water.

**1213. OTHER PLANNING ISSUES**

**Land at The Old Ox application –** Dorset Councils Planning Chair and Vice Chair have upheld the decision to make determination of this application a delegated officer matter. This will be considered further.

**New Application P/HOU/2025/00580, Lawsbrook Brodham Way Shillingstone DT11 0TE** - erect single storey rear extension with roof lanterns, erect single storey side extension and external alterations. There were no objections to this application.

**Neighbourhood Plan update** – Jo Witherden has now submitted Strategic Environmental Assessment report to Dorset Council for review. The Chairman noted that relatively minor changes to the refreshed NP were being proposed; these though include infrastructure comments in relation of the potential impact of development elsewhere and the consequences of this for Shillingstone, for example, in relation to traffic volumes. If and when a full plan re-write is required there will be more significant proposals. The refreshed plan will be submitted to Councillors for approval in March/April.

Neighbourhood Planning conference – RM & MP will be attending this in early March 2025.

**1214. FINANCES**

**i) Retrospective Payments approval:** the following payments were **APPROVED**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** |  **£ Total**  | **Reason** |
| 02/01/2025 | Public Works Loan Board |  £ 1,359.72  | Loan repayment |
| 02/01/2025 | Shillingstone Cricket Club |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 09/01/2025 | HM Revenue & Customs |  £ 519.87  | PAYE + NI Q3  |
| 13/01/2025 | David Green |  £ 46.33  | Expenses |
| 13/01/2025 | Elite Playground Inspections |  £ 63.00  | AA inspection |
| 17/01/2025 | Vale Tree Surgeons Ltd |  £ 1,320.00  | Fallen poplar  |
| 17/01/2025 | SSE |  £ 453.83  | Pavilion Elect |
| 17/01/2025 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 252.00  | Augustan Ave  |
| 27/01/2025 | Elizabeth Brecknock |  £ 160.00  | Pavilion Clean |
| 28/01/2025 | David Green |  £ 837.47  | January 25 pay |
| 29/01/2025 | Dorset Council |  £ 50.00 | Election fee |

**ii) New payments approval -** Clerk’s expenses £ 52.98 were approved.

**1215. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the fire alarm control has now been replaced. It was agreed to remove the intruder alarm and not to replace the front guttering at the Pavilion.

**1216. CORRESPONDENCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 13/01/2025 | Dorset Highways | PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WHITE PIT, SHILLINGSTONE 11/03/2025 |
| 13/01/2025 | Dorset CAN | Dorset Food Resilience - Open Meeting |
| 14/01/2025 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE WHITE PIT, SHILLINGSTONE 29/01/2025 |
| 15/01/2025 | Dorset Highways | PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE, SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE 11/04/2025 |
| 20/01/2025 | Sturminster Newsletter | Town Newsletter - What's Happening in Stur |
| 22/01/2025 | DAPTC | Future Planning Event - 4 March 2025 |
| 23/01/2025 | Dorset SID Team | SID Deployment |
| 27/01/2025 | Dorset Council | Take part in transport consultations, how we're transforming the council  |
| 31/01/2025 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE January/February 2025 Newsletter, |
| 05/02/2025 | Dorset Council | Outcome of Wessex Devolution Bid |

It was noted that HM Government had rejected the ‘Wessex’ authorities devolution proposal.

**1217. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* VJ Day commemoration arrangements

**1218. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 6th March 2025 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:03